

Claims:

1. An apparatus for forming an injection molded article, the apparatus comprising a mold, said mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having at least one aperture therein, at least one mold insert sized and dimensioned to be received within said at least one aperture, such that a surface of said insert is substantially contiguous with the surface of said mold cavity, said insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on said surface and means for retracting said mold insert from said mold after an article has been molded therein, whereby said molded hooks are released from said hook-shaped cavities before said mold is opened.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming surface of said insert is less than about 45°.
3. An injection molding apparatus, comprising a mold defining a mold cavity, an insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said insert being received in a wall of said mold, and means for retracting said insert from said mold wall.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the draft angle of said hook-forming surface of said insert is less than about 45°.
5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said retractor means is operated by means selected from the group consisting of hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, mechanical, and manual.
6. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said insert comprises a plurality of stacked plates, each plate having one or more hook-shaped cavities formed in one edge thereof.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said insert further comprises one or more spacer plates alternating between said hook-cavity plates.
8. A method of forming a molded article, the method comprising,
  - providing a mold comprising two or more parts defining a mold cavity, at least one of said parts having an aperture therein,
  - providing an insert having a field of hook-shaped cavities on a surface thereof, said insert being received in a wall of said mold,
  - positioning said mold insert in said aperture,
  - assembling said two or more mold parts to define a mold cavity,
  - molding an article in said mold cavity, said article having a field of molded hooks formed on a surface thereof,
  - retracting said mold insert to release said molded hooks from said mold cavities,
  - and
  - removing said molded article from said mold cavity.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the draft angle of the hook-forming surface of the insert is less than about 45°.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein said molding step is selected from the group consisting of injection molding, compression molding and blow molding.
11. A molded article having a field of hooks integrally formed on a surface thereof, said article formed in a mold having a cavity with a hook forming surface, said hook-bearing surface of said molded article having a draft angle of less than about 45° with respect to said hook-forming surface of said mold cavity.